

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01
MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /065 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:JR
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
H - HROBINSON (SUBS)
-----040113Z 118582 /70
O 040027Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT:

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS DEPT'S SYNOPSIS OF ACTIONS CONGRESS HAS ALREADY TAKEN OR PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATES VIS-A-VIS ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. WE WELL UNDERSTAND THAT GOZ OFFICIALS WILL BE INQUIRING ABOUT PROSPECTIVE ASSISTANCE LEVELS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS A RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION; UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE WILL BE REDUCED FROM ITS ORIGINAL LEVEL.

2. IN A MARK-UP SESSION APRIL 29 THE AFRICAN SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INT'L RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTED TO STRIKE
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15 MILLION FROM THE \$30 MILLION REQUESTED IN FMS FOR ZAIRE IN FY 1978. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S LANGUAGE CONTINUED USE OF FY 1977 FUNDS FOR ZAIRE'S EMERGENCY NEEDS AND DOES NOT PREJUDICE A DEPT REQUEST FOR ZAIRE DURING FY 1979, PROVIDED AN UPDATED STUDY OF ZAIRE'S NEEDS IS AVAILABLE TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVED THIS DOLLAR 15 MILLION REDUCTION IN A MARK-UP SESSION ON MAY 3. CONGRESSMAN BONKER'S AMENDMENT STRIKING THE REMAINING DOLLARS 15 MILLION IN FMS FOR ZAIRE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST WAS REJECTED. THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ'S AMENDMENT BARRING DIRECT OR INDIRECT AID TO "MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS" IN ZAIRE UNLESS PRESIDENT CARTER SUBMITS DETAILED REPORTS TO CONGRESS EXPLAINING WHY SUCH AID IS IMPORTANT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

3. THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD A MARK-UP SESSION FOR THE SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION MAY 3. SENATOR CLARK'S AMENDMENT INCREASING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BY DOLLARS 10 MILLION WAS ACCEPTED. CLARK'S COMPANION PROPOSAL TO CUT DOLLARS 10 MILLION FROM FMS CREDITS WILL BE CONSIDERED MAY 4. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S BILL WILL THEN BE REPORTED TO THE FULL COMMITTEE.

4. WASHINGTON POST HEADLINE ARTICLE MAY 3 ENTITLED "HILL PANEL MOVES TO REORIENT US POLICIES IN AFRICA" RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS FOLLOWS:

(A) "CALLING THE PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE 'A COMPLEX SITUATION' CHAIRMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR. (D, MICH) OF THE AFRICAN SUBCOMMITTEE SAID IT IS 'NOT CLEAR' WHETHER THE INCURSION IN SHABA PROVINCE IS DUE TO THE RETURN OF NATIVE INSURGENTS WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN ANGOLA OR TO AN EXTERNAL INVASION SUPPORTED BY ANGOLA, CUBA AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET UNION.

(B) "DIGGS ALSO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO AND ITS POPULARITY AMONG ALL ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED.

(C) "IN VIEW OF MILITARY CREDITS ALREADY ON THE BOOKS AND US LEADERSHIP IN DEBT NEGOTIATIONS TO SAVE ZAIRE FROM INTERNATIONAL BANKRUPTCY, 'ONE HARDLY COULD SAY THAT WE ARE TURNING OUR BACKS ON ZAIRE,' DIGGS SAID. HOWEVER, SOME CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE FEARFUL THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BEING RECOMMENDED WOULD GIVE THAT IMPRESSION."

5. WE INTEND TO FOLLOW-UP AFTER THE MARK-UP SESSIONS AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE100266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHAMILTON:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770155-0590
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770595/aaaaddum.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6518c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2643173
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041005
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6518c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009